

Message Text

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46

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 SS-15 NSC-10 NIC-01 SAJ-01 EB-11

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-12

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R 141055Z JUL 73

FM AMEMASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3064

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 4923

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP, UR, IR

SUBJECT: FORTHCOMING VISIT TO MOSCOW BY IRANIAN PRIME MINISTER
HOVEYDA

1. TEHRAN NEWSPAPERS FOR JULY 14 REPORT THAT PRIME MINISTER AMIR ABBAS HOVEYDA WILL BEGIN A TEN-DAY OFFICIAL VISIT TO THE SOVIET UNION ON AUGUST 6. HOVEYDA'S VISIT WILL REPAY THAT MADE TO IRAN EARLIER THIS YEAR BY SOVIET PREMIER ALEXEI KOSYGIN WHO TOOK PART IN INAUGURATING IRAN'S SOVIET BUILT STEEL MILL AT ISFAHAN. THE IRANIAN PRIME MINISTER WILL HAVE TALKS WITH COMMUNIST PARTY SECRETARY GENERAL BREZHNEV, PRESIDENT PODGORNYY AND PREMIER KOSYGIN.

2. HOVEYDA'S TALKS IN MOSCOW WILL CENTER ON ECONOMIC TOPICS, PARTICULARLY ON PRICE OF IRANIAN NATURAL GAS SUPPLIED TO

THE SOVIET UNION. PRESS SPECULATION THAT A NEW PRICING AGREEMENT MAY BE SIGNED DURING HOVEYDA'S VISIT FITS IN WITH A PLANNED VISIT TO THE SOVIET CAPITAL ON JULY 19 BY TAQI MOSSADEHI, GENERAL MANAGING DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL IRANIAN GAS COMPANY. ASSUMING HOVEYDA DOES SIGN AN AGREEMENT FOR HIGHER PRICES, IT SHOULD BE BORNE IN MIND THAT THE PRICE IRAN RECEIVES FOR ITS GAS SALES TO THE USSR IS PURELY NOTIONAL AND DOES NOT GENERATE CASH INCOME FOR IRAN.

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HELMS

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